

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SPTA-02 L-03 EB-08 PM-05  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 MCT-02 SP-02  
/080 W

-----090199 232225Z /12

P 232204Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8569

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 06115

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PN, PFOR  
SUBJECT: VISIT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

1. I USED THE OCCASION OF A FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN  
MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA TO COVER A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS.  
MINISTER, WHO HAS BEEN BEDRIDDEN WITH INTESTINAL TROUBLE,  
WAS CORDIAL AND RECEPTIVE. DEMARCHE ON THE WORLD CONFER-  
ENCE ON RACISM WAS MADE AND REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. AFTER DISCUSSION OF LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE AND SOME  
HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS, I RAISED MATTER OF PUERTO RICO. I  
GAVE HIM STANDARD TREATMENT--THAT THIS WAS INTERNAL ISSUE  
--AND REMINDED HIM OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT MESSAGE  
TO THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR  
POSITION. HE ALSO ADMITTED IT WAS CLEAR THAT VAST MAJORI-  
TYP OF PUERTO RICANS OPPOSE INDEPENDENCE AT THIS TIME.  
BUT HE SAID IT WAS HARD FOR PANAMA AND OTHERS TO REJECT  
OUT OF HAND APPEALS MADE ON THIS MATTER BY INDEPENDENCE-  
MINDED PUERTO RICANS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. WHY ISN'T  
IT POSSIBLE, HE ASKED, TO GET MORE EFFECTIVE SPOKESMEN  
FOR MAJORITY PUERTO RICAN OPINION TO ATTEND AND SPEAK UP  
AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, SUCH AS THE NON-ALIGNED CON-  
FERENCES, ETC.? IF THEY TOOK A STRONG STAND THAT THE  
FATE OF PUERTO RICO WAS THEIR PROBLEM AND THAT THEY DIDN'T  
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WELCOME OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, PANAMA AND OTHERS THEN COULD  
GIVE SUPPORT TO THAT VIEW. NO ONE IN LATIN AMERICA COULD  
AFFORD TO TAKE AN OPENLY INTERVENTIONIST POSITION IN FACE  
OF THAT KIND OF STRONG STAND BY LEGITIMATE PUERTO RICANS.  
I TOLD HIM HE HAD MADE A GOOD POINT AND THAT I WOULD CON-  
VEY SAME.

3. I REMINDED HIM OF THE STRONG ANTI-HIJACKING POLICY ADOPTED AT THE BONN SUMMIT. I INFORMED HIM THAT HE WOULD SOON BE GETTING A REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES (PROBABLY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SINCE BONN'S AMBASSADOR IS ON LEAVE) TO DISCUSS THIS. I TOLD HIM THAT ANY DEMARCHE ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD HAVE THE FULL BACKING OF MY GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HIJACKERS AND HE WOULD LISTEN TO THE DEMARCHE WITH SYMPATHY.

4. I BROUGHT UP AGAIN THE VEXED QUESTION OF SQUATTER ENCROACHMENT ON THE CANAL ZONE. I TOLD HIM THE SITUATION WAS GETTING WORSE AND THAT IT POSED A THREAT TO THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE CANAL AND TO THE SAFETY OF SOME PEOPLE OPERATING NEAR MILITARY AREAS. I SUGGESTED HE HAVE SOMEONE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN HIS GOVERNMENT GIVE HIM A THOROUGH BRIEFING ON THE SUBJECT. I SAID IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE ONLY ANSWER WAS SOME FORM OF RELOCATION AND THAT THE ACTIONS TAKEN SHOULD BE COOPERATIVE, WITH FULL PARTICIPATION BY THE GUARDIA NACIONAL.

5. FINALLY, I NOTED THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION. I SAID IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT ALL DIFFERENCES HAD BEEN RESOLVED. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH HIS LEGAL ADVISER AND HOPED THE NOTES COULD BE EXCHANGED THIS WEEK. JORDEN  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D780345-0770  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 1648298  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PEPR, PN, US, (GONZALEZ REVILLA, NICOLAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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